

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5395
INFO USICA WASHDC
AMCONSUL BORDEAUX
AMCONSUL LYON
AMCONSUL MARSEILLE
AMCONSUL NICE
AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

UNCLAS PARIS 23697

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, FR
SUBJECT: THE PCF AND THE WILMINGTON TEN

1. AS PART OF A LONG CAMPAIGN ON BEHALF OF THE WIL-
MINGTON TEN, COMMUNIST DEPUTY ROBERT MONTDARGENT (VAL
D'OISE, MAYOR OF ARGENTEUIL) CALLED ON POLITICAL COUN-
SELOR JULY 26 TO PRESENT A LETTER SIGNED BY GASTON
PLISSONNIER (SECRETARIAT, POLITBURO, CENTRAL COMMITTEE).
LETTER ASKS FOR JUSTICE FOR WILMINGTON TEN AND FOR
PUERTO RICAN NATIONALISTS LOLITA LEBRON, OSCAR COLLAZO,
RAFAEL MIRANDA AND IRVING FLORES. MONTDARGENT WAS
ACCOMPANIED BY TWO MEMBERS OF PCF INTERNATIONAL STAFF,
GEORGES FOURNIAL (LATIN AMERICA) AND FRANCOIS BLANCHARD
(NORTH AMERICA).

2. POLITICAL COUNSELOR EXPLAINED CURRENT STATUS OF
CASE BASED ON USINFO MESSAGE 252158Z JULY 1978. HE
FURTHER NOTED THAT THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT HAD EXAMINED
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THE CASE AT THE PRESIDENT'S DIRECTION AND, HAVING FOUND
A NUMBER OF IRREGULARITIES, WAS NOW CONSIDERING ENTER-
ING THE APPEAL PROCESS AS A FRIEND OF THE COURT. RE-
VIEWING THE CASE OF THE PUERTO RICANS, POLITICAL COUN-
SELOR MADE THE OBVIOUS POINT THAT THESE INDIVIDUALS WERE
CONVICTED OF VIOLENT, CRIMINAL OFFENSES AND WERE NOT
"POLITICAL PRISONERS".

3. CONCERNING THE LATTER POINT, PCF REPRESENTATIVES WERE IN COMPLETE AGREEMENT, RENEGING ON WILMINGTON TEN/ PUERTO RICAN LINKAGE IN PLISSONNIER MESSAGE AND STRESSING INSTEAD COMMUNIST OPPOSITION TO VIOLENCE. INTERESTINGLY, PLISSONNIER LETTER REFERS TO PUERTO RICANS AS "POLITICAL DETAINEES" WHILE HUMANITE OF JULY 27 SAYS ONLY THAT PCF REQUESTED "CLEMENCY" AFTER 25 YEARS IN PRISON.

4. HUMANITE RAN FRONT-PAGE PHOTO JULY 27 OF MCKOY AND VEREEN LEAVING PRISON, "THANKS TO THE PRESSURE OF INTERNATIONAL OPINION." VISIT TO EMBASSY IS REPORTED ON PAGE 6 IN THE CONTEXT OF A LONGER STORY ON THIS RELEASE OF THREE OF THE WILMINGTON TEN. CITING THE RECENT ANDREW YOUNG STATEMENT ON POLITICAL PRISONERS IN THE US AND THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE TO UN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS ("NO NATION CAN IGNORE ITS OBLIGATIONS"), THE PCF CONCLUDES THAT "PRESIDENT CARTER HAS APPARENTLY BEEN TRAPPED BY HIS IDEOLOGICAL AMBITIONS" AND THAT "THIS RETREAT PROVES THAT COMBAT PAYS."

5. PCF HAS GIVEN CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION AS WELL TO RECENT ACTIONS BY THE AMERICAN INDIAN MOVEMENT. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED SEVERAL TELEPHONE CALLS AS WELL AS A SMALL DELEGATION REPRESENTING THE "PARIS COMMITTEE OF THE UNCLASSIFIED

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AMERICAN INDIAN MOVEMENT" AND THE LEAGUE OF THE RIGHTS OF MAN WHICH PRESENTED PETITIONS AGAINST HR 9054, CUNNINGHAM BILL.

6. COPIES OF PLISSONNIER LETTER AND HUMANITE ARTICLE ARE BEING POUCHED TO EUR/WE, ALONG WITH SAMPLE OF AMERICAN INDIAN PETITIONS.

7. EMBASSY PLANS TO ANSWER LETTER (ADDRESSED TO AMBASSADOR) WITH TECHNICAL RUNDOWN OF STATUS OF THE WILMINGTON TEN AND APPROPRIATE ATTENTION TO INACCURATE GROUPING OF PUERTO RICANS UNDER THE SAME RUBRIQUE.
HARTMAN

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